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# NEWS

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## From RICK AUERBACH LOS ANGELES COUNTY ASSESSOR

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **LOS ANGELES COUNTY ASSESSOR PROVIDES SAYRE FIRE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF**

Los Angeles County Assessor Rick Auerbach today began a process to provide property tax relief for homeowners affected by the Sayre (Sylmar/Granada Hills) wildfires which destroyed or damaged more than 500 homes and commercial structures.

"We have started identifying homes and properties destroyed or sustaining at least \$10,000 in damage," Auerbach said. "Our department does this either by contacting local city and county fire officials or by receiving calamity application forms from homeowners affected by this devastation.

"Our top priority will be to simplify this process at every step of the way, and we will actively seek information on addresses and losses," he added. "I urge anyone with questions to contact us as soon as possible at a special telephone hotline and visit our website for a downloadable Misfortune and Calamity form. This form should be submitted to make sure we don't miss any property impacted by the fire and that we have correct contact information."

A fire link is available on the department's website at <http://assessor.lacounty.gov>. Manufactured/Mobile homeowners can obtain information by calling (213) 974-3119 and selecting option 2. There is also an additional information number for affected Sylmar/Granada Hills property owners which can be reached at (818) 833-6173. This number will be answered by a Supervising Appraiser and will include voicemail for messages with a return call no later than the next business day.

The State Revenue and Taxation Code, Section 170/Misfortune and Calamity, allows reassessment of property sustaining at least \$10,000 in damage. This process can result in a corrected tax bill or refund. Any adjustment or proration of taxes will be based on the reduction in value from the date of damage through the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, or until the structure is repaired or replaced.